

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF, YO

SUBJECT: TITOTALING THE VISIT: THERE MUST BE
MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

REF: A. BELGRADE 5178

B. MOSCOW 14339

1. SUMMARY. INSUBSTANTIAL CHARACTER OF BILATERAL
ASPECTS OF TITO VISIT SUGGEST THAT THE MIDDLE EAST
MAY HAVE BEEN PRIME TOPIC OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN
TITO AND BREZHNEV. FIRM EVIDENCE IS STILL LACKING,
HOWEVER, END SUMMARY.

2. EXCESSIVE WARMTH OF SOVIET TREATMENT OF TITO
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VISIT SEEMED DESIGNED AS SNOW JOB TO IMPRESS TITO

AND AS ATTEMPT TO SHOW SOVIET AUDIENCE THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS BACK IN THE FOLD, MORE OR LESS. CORDIALITY ON SOVIET SIDE REACHED NEAR-LUDICROUS LENGTHS, EXTENDING EVEN TO NATIONALLY TELEVISED BUSSING OF MRS. TITO BY GROMYKO (OF ALL PEOPLE) AT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES. VISIT WAS PRECEDED BY PUBLICATION IN MOSCOW OF SELECTED ARTICLES AND SPEECHES BY TITO. LISTLESS COMMUNIQUE EVEN OMITTED WORD "FRANK" IN CHARACTERIZING TALKS -- SOMETHING THAT WAS NOT DONE IN JUNE 1972 COMMUNIQUE.

3. BILATERAL ASPECTS OF VISIT, AS EMBASSY BELGRADE NOTED REFTEL A, SEEMED BASICALLY PERFUNCTORY. BREZHNEV IN DINNER REMARKS NOVEMBER 12 EMPHASIZED WHAT UNITES TWO PARTIES AND STATES; TITO, AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, NOTED SOME OF THE DIFFERENCES. UNLIKE THE 1972 COMMUNIQUE, THIS ONE WAS SPARSE ON BILATERAL DETAILS. TITO'S DINNER SPEECH HAD HIGHLIGHTED ECONOMICS AS PARTICULAR PRIORITY FOR COOPERATION. COMMUNIQUE REFLECTS NONE OF THAT EMPHASIS, ALTHOUGH THIS IS PERHAPS NATURAL IN VIEW OF KOSYGIN'S RECENT ECONOMICS-ORIENTED VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA AND OF POLITICAL CHARACTER OF TWO RETINUES IN KIEV.

4. INSUBSTANTIAL QUALITY OF PUBLIC ASPECTS OF THE VISIT SUGGESTS THAT THE MIDDLE EAST MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON ME SHEDS LITTLE LIGHT ON HOW DISCUSSIONS WENT (REFTEL B). TALKS WERE HANDLED WITH INORDINATE SECRECY; WE UNDERSTAND FROM ROMANIAN EMOFF THAT EVEN EE CORRESPONDENTS (EXCEPT SOVIET AND YUGOSLAV) WERE EXCLUDED FROM SITE OF MEETINGS. MOREOVER, SOVIET PRESS REPORTS OF KIEV MEETINGS SHOWED SOME PECULIARITIES. COMMUNIQUE WAS REPORTED AS BUTTONED UP ON NOVEMBER 14, BUT TITO AND BREZHNEV HAD ANOTHER MEETING (APPARENTLY TETE-A-TETE) ON THE 15TH. FOUR DAYS OF TALKS SEEM TOO MANY TO ACCOUNT FOR SUCH A PALTRY PRODUCT AS THE COMMUNIQUE.

5. IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT, WHILE TRIP MAY HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THE BOOKS IN PRINCIPLE FOR SOME TIME, IT WAS ARRANGED AT SHORT NOTICE. SOVIETS ASKED CANADIANS ON NOVEMBER 1 TO PUT BACK FONMIN SHARP'S VISIT A WEEK, AFTER IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED JUST THE WEEK BEFORE THAT SHARP VISIT WOULD BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 12. REASONS GIVEN CANADIANS WAS THAT GROMYKO WOULD BE TIED UP WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12-16. IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT GROMYKO HAD TO BE FREED TO ATTEND TO TITO VISIT.

6. TITO TRIP GAVE BREZHNEV AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE HIS OWN STATUS WITHIN SOVIET LEADERSHIP. PARTY CHARACTER OF VISIT ALLOWED HIM TO HOG SPOTLIGHT WHICH HE HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO SHARE WITH KOSYGIN AND PODGORNYY DURING 1972 TITO VISIT. WE ASSUME HE WILL ALSO TREASURE THE NOVEMBER 12 COMPLIMENT TO HIS "PERSONAL EFFORTS" ON BEHALF OF PEACE FROM ONE OF WORLD'S FOREMOST EXPERTS ON PERSONALITY CULTS.
DUBS

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